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SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL TRACING SERVICE: DUTCH FOCUS ON
TECHNICAL ISSUES

REF: STATE 106075

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ACCORDINGLY.

¶1. (U) Deputy Director for Holocaust Issues Elizabeth Nakian and econoff delivered on July 7 reftel points to Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs officials Alec Cornelissen, Senior Advisor and Project Leader for General Management, J.J. Veerman, Director, Documentary Information Systems Department, and Carl Peersman, Legal Counsel, Legal Affairs Department, International Law Division.

¶2. (SBU) These officials agreed that the International Tracing Service (ITS) archive in Bad Arolsen, Germany, should be opened quickly, but expressed several technical concerns. These concerns included how to care for old documents, ensuring the presence of archival specialists at the July 24 follow-up meeting, and the assignment of technical personnel to Bad Arolsen to transition the ITS to an archive. On the issue of selecting new ITS management, Cornelissen added that the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is "sensitive to an active International Commission (IC) role," noting that it could be "possible that the ICRC would leave" its current ITS management role if IC members interfered too strongly.

¶3. (SBU) Nakian stressed that the Dutch pursue these issues in parallel with the main priority of opening up the archive. With that in mind, Nakian said that obtaining a copy of the archives is the bottom line for the U.S. and that the Dutch should use their Chairmanship of the IC to facilitate the ratification of the ITS amendments by the IC member states. Regarding the ITS management issue, the U.S. was not seeking control of the appointment process, just the ability to review and provide input on candidates, Nakian said.

¶4. (U) This cable has been cleared by EUR/OHI Deputy Director Nakian.
ARNALL